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DE RUEHVN #0400/01 1230914
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 030914Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9861
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1952
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0274
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0865
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0067
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1047
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0117
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0039
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 0357
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENTIANE 000400

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR G, EAP/MLA WEYER, INR, CA/OCS/ACS/EAP, AND MED
BANGKOK FOR USAID MACARTHUR, RMO, CDC, AND REO JWALLER
PASS TO USTR (EBRYAN), USAID DCARROLL, AND HHS EELVANDER
ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [ECON](#) [SOCI](#) [PREL](#) [KFLU](#) [LA](#)

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA: LAO WEEKLY REPORT MAY 3

REF: VIENTIANE 387 AND PREVIOUS

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¶1. (SBU) Possible Human Case: We have heard from the
Australians of a possible human AI case in Houaphan Province
(near Vietnam). Embassy's CDC representative is checking
with the UN agencies and GOL on this.

¶2. (SBU) Announcing AI in ducks: The GOL finally notified
the OIE of Dr. Webster's team's finding of AI in healthy
ducks in Vientiane. (See reftels on initial finding.) The
FAO regional representative, Lawrence Gleason, will be
joining a World Bank Assessment team in Laos tomorrow and
will take the opportunity to meet with the GOL to discuss how
and when they will be announcing the AI finding to the
public. He will also advise the GOL of a special emergency
fund set up by the UN for donors to channel monies to the
animal sector for AI.

¶3. (U) World Bank Assessment team: A 30 person World Bank
Avian Influenza Appraisal team met with the UN, multi-lateral
and bilateral donors today to discuss the terms of reference
for their two-week mission to Laos (which will be followed by
a trip to Cambodia to do the same). Embassy CDC
representative is part of the Lao team. They will appraise
the GOL's Pandemic Plan, with the hope of simplifying it;
negotiate with the GOL which parts of the plan they will
finance and set up financing arrangements over the next four
years; and set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The
aim is simplicity and reachable goals.

¶4. (U) The Lao-Cambodia assessment falls under the World
Bank's Global Program for Avian Influenza (GPAI), which was
agreed to by the World Bank Board in January (just before the
Beijing donors meeting). GPAI is a \$500 million global
facility. So far, only two countries have received funding
under the GPAI -- Nigeria and Kyrgyzstan, with Turkey soon to
be approved. Laos and Cambodia's GPAI falls under Bank
emergency procedures (used for natural disasters etc.), which

aims to get funds moving relatively quickly. The funds include \$4 million in IDA (International Development Aid) grants; \$2 million in grants from bilateral donors put into a multi-donor trust facility (so far only the EU has contributed); and \$2 million in grants from the Government of Japan. The money will be disbursed directly to the GOL and replenished after monitoring, evaluation and review. Once the assessment team completes its initial work next Friday and reaches an agreement on an aide memoire with the GOL, then the team members will prepare documents for Board approval at the end of June. At that point, a final agreement will be signed with the GOL. The team leaders expect disbursement by August/September. Meanwhile, the GOL will be free to start funding projects immediately with their own funds to be reimbursed by the WB, if the project meets the criteria.

15. (U) The team leaders expressed concern about the GOL's Pandemic Plan -- especially the lack of specificity in the activities. The GOL needs to better define the who, when, how and desired outcome of projects. Once this is done, then they need to do a better job on the costing. The institutional arrangements are also a concern -- too many bureaucratic channels and too cumbersome a decision-making process. They would like to see the line ministries given more autonomy and flexibility. The team leaders also said they would be looking for mechanisms for coordinating among donors and with the GOL.

16. (U) The Ambassador thanked them for including our Emboff in the team and informed the team that our funds have already begun to flow and will be channeled through the WHO and FAO. We suggested that they look at already existing donor coordination mechanisms, such as the Global Fund. As with the Global Fund, the UN has offered to provide coordination support for AI activities. The Minister of Health has agreed

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to seek approval from the Prime Minister for the UN to do this.

17. (U) The EU representative stressed the need to coordinate with other donors who are not part of the GPAI and the need to clarify the role of the UN, especially FAO and WHO. He expressed concern about human resources being diverted from other important programs into the AI effort. He advised looking into local, regional and international technical assistance. The team said that the Japanese funds are specifically earmarked for training and technical consultants (who do not need to be Japanese). The Bank cannot, however, pay GOL salaries -- only per diem and travel. The EU also asked that NGOs be included as implementing partners. The team agreed that NGOs and the private sector can be part of the plan.

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